

and 51 other students from around the state gathered in March 2000 to create three recommendations to present to the Vermont legislature.

The two I am promoting today are, require every state ID to have a bar code or strip that can be swiped at the checkout. The bar codes will code your birthday and, when swiped through the machine, will tell the cashier if the buyer was eligible to purchase the alcohol.

The second recommendation is to have more funding for the Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team. This is a team of local law enforcement which is hired just for breaking up large teenage parties where drinking taking place. Now, our state does not give the START team a lot of money, and no extra incentives are offered for working into the long night hours. If the START program had more money, the goal of having a team in each county would be met, thus making parties not such a common place for teens to engage in illegal consumption of alcohol.

The last and personal recommendation to help Vermont is that, if someone underage is drinking with a blood alcohol content above the legal limit, their license will be revoked until they turn 21. The legal blood-alcohol content level for a minor is .02, about one beer for an average-weight teen. I feel that, if a minor knows he or she will not be allowed to drive for a long period of time, they will think before getting into a car while intoxicated.

Now the punishment is revocation of your license for 90 days, a fine, and alcohol-treatment classes. These are good consequences, but people that are behind the wheel, drunk, endanger everyone they pass on the highway. If a license was taken away for a long period of time, they would realize the importance of staying sober behind the wheel.

I know these solutions will not bring underage drinking to a cease, but I believe, if it saves one person, it makes a difference.

Thank you, again, Mr. Sanders, for your time and this opportunity.

PEN PALS WITH PAKISTAN

APRIL 8, 2002

BETHANY WALLACE: I'm Bethany Wallace, and what we're talking about today is the pen pal program with Pakistan that our school has, in conjunction with Sara Siad from Bennington College, has established, and I guess what our hopes are is that, eventually, a program like this will be established, perhaps, statewide, and eventually nationwide.

The pen-pal program, we have sent two letters already and gotten one in return. Sara Siad is a student at Bennington College, and she is from Pakistan. I think she lives in Karachi, which is the most modern city in Pakistan, and it's kind like the metropolitan New York of Pakistan. And she has worked in a lot of public schools there and seen an interest that Pakistani students and young people have in American culture, much like we have in Pakistani culture.

What she did was to establish the pen-pal program, and we all wrote letters, and then she translated them and brought them to Pakistan when she went back on Christmas vacation. The students over there then wrote their letters, and she brought them back to us, and that is how it has been kind of working.

What it has done is opened a lot of doors to better understand the Pakistani culture, especially when our image of that culture has been so skewed by the media in light of September 11th.

KERRY MCINTOSH: It is just interesting, in the letters, we see their perspective on things, but we also see how we are more similar to the people in Pakistan than we

would have assumed. Like lots of us, there are just lots of different assumptions we have about people in Pakistan and what their views would be or something, and then they write in the letters, and it seems like, wow, they're really a lot like us.

I have two letters here. One of them is in Urdu, which is the native language of Pakistan. But, as Sara has told us, they also speak English fluently. And another wrote me a letter in English. I will read an excerpt. Like, when she talks about September 11th, she says. Like, first, just says, hello and, like, greets me and tells me a little bit about herself.

And now let's talk a little about the 11th of September. First of all, I want to commend you. It was really a shocking news. I know how hurt it must be for the people to bear the loss of their dear and near ones. It was a real horrible act of terrorism. While talking about terrorism, I do agree with the U.S. approach. But had Afghanistan handed over the culprit, it would have been much better.

You know, our President, Musharraf, was really in a bad position. It was really tough for him, whether or not to help the U.S., because some of the people in Pakistan were against the U.S. But the majority of the Pakistani population supported Mr. Musharraf's decision. But, you know, war isn't an alternative for peace. I really wish the world was a better place to live in.

I think I mentioned something political in the letter that I had written to her first, assuming that—like, not in a bad way, but just assuming that she would be a little more critical of the U.S., but then I found out that she really, like, was supportive, and that it is just like, a minority in Pakistan that is eminently anti-American people like we see protesting on the streets, and that they share our concerns and hopes for world peace.

ERICA HOLLNER. Like Kerry was saying, the main thing I think we are getting out of this is a better understanding of Pakistan, because we have these views that are so stereotypical, and we see—on TV and magazines, we see these poor people and see the refugee camps, and we think that the whole country is like that. But, in reality, a lot of the families that we are exchanging letters with are similar to us, and they're not poor, they have enough money to live comfortably, and it's a lot like the U.S. in a lot of ways, but we always think that it's all the same.

And Just that, they like the same kinds of things as we do. And I remember reading one letter that a girl was very interested in Princess Di, and you don't think of the fact that they think of the same things as we do, and they know about a lot of the same things too.

KATIE KERVORKIAN. We think that the program would be a great way to teach tolerance, just so that other people can understand what goes on, because many people don't know what is going on in the subcontinental countries, the Middle East. And to learn from someone that is our own age is different than learning from magazine or TV.

BETHANY WALLACE. And what Sarah has pointed out is that nothing is really off limits in the letters. If we bring it up first, then our pen pals aren't, you know, squeamish about talking about it, about communicating their views, and it is a great tool to better understand what is going on over there.

HONORING MR. JOHN NORTH OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Gallaher North of Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The North family has contributed tremendously to the Nashville area through acts of kindness and leadership for many years.

Mr. North was born June 2, 1912, on Grandfather Lucas North's farm, one mile south of Ethridge, Tennessee, the son of John Ira North and Lula Mae Flippo North. He has survived all of his six brothers and sisters—Vester Pearl, Estella North Hendrix, Edith North Brown, Howard North, Kathleen North Sutton, and Irene North Harris.

A man of great integrity, North worked on the family farm in Southern Tennessee until the age of 30. At that time, he left the farm to work for Greyhound, where he spent some 32 years, retiring in 1975.

Over the past 30 years he has regularly volunteered at Madison Church of Christ in various capacities, including driving the church bus for the elderly, and conducting church services for the shut-in, sick, and hospitals. He currently continues this volunteer work in the food room of Madison Church of Christ.

North was married for 66 years, 2 months, to Ruby Butler North, who passed away on July 15, 1999. The couple had two sons, William, who died in 1995 and Don, who died in 1991. His grandson Johnny North lives in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Mr. North is to be commended for his vibrant love of life and devotion to faith and family. May he enjoy a memorable and happy birthday on June 2, 2002.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, to honor our correctional officers for the work they do to keep our families safe. We do not thank these men and women enough for their service to our communities.

Day after day, week after week, our correctional officers work one of the most dangerous patrols in the country. They devote themselves to keeping violent felons behind bars, ensuring that our families can feel safe in our homes and on our streets. We know from the number of correctional officers who die in the line of duty each year that this is a dangerous profession that requires courage, hard work, and professionalism.

Our correctional officers are people like Bonnie Johnson, a mother of six, who works over 50 hours a week in a prison in Jackson, Michigan. For almost 20 years, Bonnie has put her heart and soul into her job. Or Rodney Olsson—a correctional officer with the Michigan prison system for roughly 14 years. Rodney drives over 60 miles to get to and from